

ESF #15 - RECOVERY

Participating Departments/Agencies:

Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Department of Economic Development
Health and Human Services System (HHSS)
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Department of Insurance
State Historical Society
State Fire Marshal
Military Department
Department of Natural Resources
State Patrol
Department of Roads
University of Nebraska System
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)
American Red Cross (ARC)

I. PURPOSE

- A. To provide for coordinated measures and procedures designed to recover from the effects of natural or technological disasters, civil disturbances, or hostile military or paramilitary action.
- B. To provide for effective utilization of resources to support local political subdivisions in disaster recovery activities.

II. SITUATION

- A. Local officials have authority under their local ordinances and Revised Statutes of Nebraska to take responsible and appropriate actions in the direction and control of disaster recovery activities.
- B. If an effective recovery is beyond the local government's capability, state assistance may be required. The Governor may then proclaim a "State of Emergency" and the provisions of the SEOP will be implemented.
- C. If the situation is beyond local and state capability, the Governor may ask for Federal assistance by requesting a Presidential Declaration of an "emergency" or "major disaster".
- D. A "Presidential Declaration" authorizes Federal assistance under PL 93-288, as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance

Act, PL 100-707. The declaration triggers the implementation of Federal disaster assistance programs, which are coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- E. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will provide guidance to local officials applying for state and/or Federal assistance.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Recovery involves actions taken over the short term to return vital life-support systems to minimum standard and long term to return life to normal or improved levels. Such measures include damage assessment, supplemental federal assistance to individuals and public entities, assessment of plans, procedures, development of economic impact studies and methods to mitigate damages.
- B. The Governor will have issued an Executive Order declaring a "State of Emergency".
- C. The State Emergency Operating Center (SEOC) will be activated and implementation of this plan will begin before emergency conditions subside. This will allow recovery actions to be implemented quickly and efficiently.
- D. The State of Nebraska will request the President to declare a "major disaster" or an "emergency" only after the situation is beyond local and state capabilities and a "State of Emergency" has been declared by the Governor.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Initial recovery efforts focus on the safety and welfare of the affected community and restoration of essential services to include:
 - 1. Conducting detailed damage assessments to determine the need for supplemental Federal assistance;
 - 2. Following procedures for requesting Federal disaster assistance;
 - 3. Realizing protective actions and coordinating re-entry into evacuated areas;
 - 4. Restoring essential public facilities and services;
 - 5. Coordinating Federal disaster assistance (public and individual);
 - 6. Coordinating resources and materials;
 - 7. Coordinating volunteer organizations;

8. Coordinating information and instructions to the public; and
 9. Identifying post disaster hazard mitigation activities to reduce future risks.
- B. Long term recovery efforts focus on redeveloping communities and restoring the economic viability of the disaster area(s). This phase requires a substantial commitment of time and resources from both governmental and non-governmental organizations and includes:
1. Restoring public infrastructure damaged by the emergency;
 2. Reestablishing an adequate supply of housing to replace that which was destroyed;
 3. restoring lost jobs;
 4. Restoring the economic base of the disaster area(s); and
 5. Identifying and implementing long-term mitigation measures, e.g. land use and building codes.
- C. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Recovery Staff Structure

The following Nebraska Emergency Management Agency positions have been established to ensure maximum utilization of state resources during disaster recovery operations.

1. State Coordinating Officer (SCO)

The State Coordinating Officer is the state official designated by the Governor to act as his/her principal assistant in the coordination and supervision of the state disaster assistance program and to act in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Officer. The SCO serves as the focal point for political subdivisions of the state in obtaining needed Federal assistance.

2. The Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

The Governor's Authorized Representative is the person named by the Governor in the Federal/State Agreement to execute, on behalf of the state, all necessary documents for disaster assistance following the declaration of an emergency or a major disaster, including certification of applications and vouchers for public assistance.

3. Public Assistance Officer (PAO)

The Public Assistance Officer is appointed by the GAR to manage the Public Assistance Program under the Robert T. Stafford disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

4. State Hazard Mitigation Officer (S/HMO)

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer is appointed by the GAR to manage the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program under the Stafford Act.

5. Public Information Officer (PIO)

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Public Information Officer reports to the GAR and is responsible for coordinating news releases and instructions to the public.

6. Volunteer Coordinator:

A member of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff will coordinate all volunteer resources.

D. State Emergency Operating Center

1. In the event of a major disaster or catastrophic emergency resulting in a Presidential Disaster Declaration, the Governor or State Coordinating Officer may decide to relocate elements of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to a Disaster Field Office. This will shift the overall direction and control of state resources from the State EOC in Lincoln to the disaster area and will improve daily coordination of recovery efforts among state, county, and Federal decision-makers.
2. Once the decision to relocate has been made, federal Emergency Support Function (ESF) #7, Resource Support, will be responsible for the procurement of sufficient office space, telephones, equipment, supplies, and other materials necessary to support the relocation.

E. Expenditures and Record Keeping:

1. A catastrophic emergency will require the expenditure of large sums of state and local funds. Financial operations will be carried out under compressed schedules and intense political pressures, which will require expeditious purchases that must still meet sound financial management and accountability requirements.
2. State agencies and departments conducting recovery activities will be responsible for providing financial support for their operations. Each agency and department is responsible for maintaining appropriate documentation to

support requests for reimbursement, and for submitting bills in a timely fashion, and for closing out mission assignments.

3. The approval to expend funds for recovery operations will be given by authorized officials from each state agency and department. Each agency should designate a responsible official on each ESF to ensure that actions taken and costs incurred are consistent with identified missions.
4. Each state agency is responsible for establishing effective administrative controls to guide the expenditure of funds. Care must be taken throughout the course of the emergency to maintain logs, records, and documentation of all expenditures to provide reasonable accountability and justification for Federal reimbursement. Record keeping is necessary to facilitate closeouts and to support post-emergency audits.
5. Each agency should maintain detailed records of the following types of expenditures, which may be incurred while providing requested assistance:
 - a. Wages (regular and overtime), travel, and per diem of permanent and temporary state agency personnel assigned solely to provide assistance;
 - b. Cost of materials, and services procured under contract to support implementation of recovery efforts;
6. Cost incurred for materials, equipment, and supplies (including transportation, maintenance, repair, etc.) from regular state agency stock;
7. Costs incurred which are paid from trust, revolving, or other funds and whose reimbursement is required by law; and
8. Other costs incurred to provide assistance or otherwise facilitate recovery efforts, as directed by the State Coordinating Officer.

V. INITIAL RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- A. While local governments are implementing emergency response actions necessary to protect public health and safety, assigned SEOC staff will work to prepare for the rapid deployment of resources necessary to facilitate recovery.
- B. Initial planning for recovery will begin before emergency conditions subside. At this time, the State EOC will be staffed according to State EOC procedures, and necessary actions to protect the public will have been implemented. The State EOC will be in constant contact with proper authorities to monitor disaster events. Once details are coordinated, initial recovery activities will begin.

C. Needs and Damage Assessment:

1. Coordination of Damage Assessment

- a. Once conditions allow, rapid and thorough assessments must be conducted to identify the immediate unmet emergency needs of disaster victims; to assess the overall damage to individuals and to businesses within those areas hit by the disaster; to assess the overall damage to critical public facilities and services; and to determine whether those damages are sufficient to warrant supplemental Federal disaster assistance.
- b. The decision to deploy state damage assessment teams will be in coordination with the affected county governments. Upon receipt of a request, the designated authority for the state will discuss with county officials the number of teams to be deployed, their estimated time of arrival, projected length of stay, need for additional resources, etc.

2. Conducting the Damage Assessment

Damage assessment activities are generally conducted in one of three ways, depending on circumstances. They are as follows:

- a. Aerial Survey – conducted when there may be no other way to assess a disaster's immediate impact on a particular area; when the damaged area is so large that this method provides the best opportunity to identify specific areas to be surveyed by damage assessment teams; or when the damage is too extensive and catastrophic that the need for a detailed damage assessment may not be necessary.
- b. Windshield Survey – Conducted to assess a large area in a relatively short period of time. It may be used when general overview of the area is all that is required. A windshield survey provides the opportunity for team members to exchange views as they assess the area together. This process allows for the team to quickly record the number of homes and businesses destroyed or damaged. The raw figure acquired by this method can be extrapolated to give an overview of the extent of the disaster.
- c. Walk through Survey – The most thorough and time consuming method for damage assessment. This method is most often used when the assessment needs to be detailed and specific. In a marginal situation, detailed information needs to be gathered in order to assess the extent to which the jurisdiction is eligible for Federal disaster assistance.

3. Individual Damage Assessment Data

When assessing damage to individual homes, information on the extent of damages will be recorded on the "Individual Assistance Site Collection Form". This form allows damage assessment teams to identify the following:

- a. Primary versus secondary residences, (Secondary homes are not eligible for disaster assistance.)
- b. Homeowner versus rental property. Homeowners are eligible for assistance for loss to both real and personal property, whereas renters may only be eligible for loss to personal property.
- c. Extent of damage, Damage less than 10 percent of the fair market value is considered minimal; major damage (structural damage to foundations, walls, roofs, etc.) falls within the range of 11 percent to 80 percent of the fair market value; and structures damaged in excess of 80 percent of the fair market value are considered to be destroyed.
- d. Disaster related damages and losses that are adequately covered under individual homeowner insurance policies are not eligible for disaster assistance.

NOTE: Assessment teams should be alert to recognize any special needs or critical requirements of disaster victims during the assessment process. This information should be specifically annotated on the damage assessment form and provided to the local civil defense/emergency management coordinator as soon as possible.

4. Business Damage Assessment Data

When assessing damage to businesses, information on the extent of damage will be recorded on the "Business Assistance Site Collection Form". This form is essential in helping the teams make the following determinations.

- a. Estimated days out of operation. This information is needed to estimate the total dollar loss to a business.
- b. Number of employees. Used to estimate the amount of disaster unemployment that will be necessary.
- c. Replacement costs. Replacement cost of structure and contents are eligible for disaster assistance.
- d. Extent of damage. Damage less than 10 percent of the fair market value is considered to be minimal; major damage (structural damage to foundations, walls, roofs, etc.) fall within the range of 11 percent to 80

percent of the fair market value; and structure damaged in excess of 80 percent of the fair market value are considered to be destroyed.

- e. Disaster related losses adequately covered by individual insurance policies are not eligible for disaster assistance.

5. Public Damage Assessment Data

- a. When assessing public damage, information on the extent of damages will be recorded on the “Initial Damage Assessment Form”. Some of the information needed to complete this form may not be readily available during the assessment, and may need to be collected in follow-up meetings with local officials or as it becomes available. Damage assessment teams will inspect damage to and estimate impact on:

- 1) Public facilities; and
- 2) Private nonprofit facilities.

- b. The categories of damage to be assessed are:

- 1) Debris clearance;
- 2) Emergency protective measures;
- 3) Roads and bridges;
- 4) Water control facilities
- 5) Public buildings and equipment;
- 6) Utilities;
- 7) Recreation and other

D. Initial Damage Assessment – Completed by Local Government:

- 1. In the ideal scenario, local officials will have conducted an initial assessment of damages to private and public property. The role of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will be to review the results of this assessment and based on the magnitude of the disaster, determine if a joint Federal/state/local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) is required. The PDA team will be comprised of representatives from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the local jurisdiction. Teams will:
 - a. Assess the extent of damage to individual homes and businesses;

- b. Assess the extent of damage to public facilities; and
 - c. Assess the extent to which the immediate emergency needs of the public are being met; and assess the need for additional assistance.
 2. Once this assessment is complete, an exit interview will be conducted with local officials. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the extent to which damages identified by local officials were verified, as well as the need for supplemental state and Federal disaster assistance.
 3. Upon their return to the State EOC, the PDA teams will analyze the information to determine whether the damage warrants a request by the Governor for Federal disaster assistance. If so, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff will prepare the appropriate request for the Governor to signature.

E. No Local Damage Assessment Conducted

State (and possibly Federal) assistance may be necessary to conduct the initial damage assessment. Upon arrival, damage assessment teams will meet with local officials to review those are hardest hit and to finalize the agenda for the assessment. Local officials will be assigned to each team to assist in the assessment. Teams will be provided with maps, vehicles and other resources necessary to complete the assessment.

VI. FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

A. Request for Federal Disaster Assistance:

1. Upon completion, public and private damage assessment information will be analyzed at the SEOC. The results of that analysis will be submitted to the Governor's or his authorized representative and a determination made if a Presidential Declaration will be requested. If requested, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will prepare a letter to the President for the Governor's signature requesting Federal assistance.
2. The Governor's letter must be submitted within 30 days of the occurrence of the disaster and must:
 - a. Demonstrate that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the state and affected local governments;
 - b. Demonstrate that supplemental Federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster;

- c. Furnish information on the extent and nature of state and local resources, which have been or will be used to alleviate the impact of the disaster;
 - d. Certify that the state and local governments will bear their proportionate share of the costs to implement Federal disaster assistance programs.
 - e. Include an estimate of the extent and nature of Federal assistance required for each of the impacted counties and the state.
 - f. Confirm that appropriate actions have been taken under state law, including the execution of the Nebraska State Emergency Operations Plan; and
 - g. Identify the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) in the event the request is approved. (The SCO becomes the state official who then coordinates state and local disaster assistance efforts in conjunction with the FCO.)
3. In the event of a catastrophic emergency, where the enormity and severity of damage is expected to be extreme and there is an immediate need for supplemental Federal assistance, the Governor may make an expedited request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This request will not include specific damage estimates or the amount of Federal assistance necessary. However, the request will outline the anticipated impacts of the emergency.

B. Notification

Upon Presidential approval of the request for a disaster declaration, FEMA will immediately notify the Governor, appropriate members of Nebraska's Congressional Delegation, and appropriate Federal agencies. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will be responsible for notifying the affected county governments. Notification to possible applicants for Federal assistance will be a coordinated county, state and Federal effort. The State PIO will notify the media and public through media briefings and news releases.

C. Federal/State Agreement:

After the President's declaration, the Governor and the FEMA Regional Director enter into a Federal/State agreement, which describes how Federal disaster assistance will be made available. The agreement:

1. Identifies those areas that are eligible for assistance.
2. Stipulates the division of costs among the Federal, state and local governments;
3. Specifies the time period in which assistance will be made available; and

4. Identifies any other conditions for receiving assistance.

D. Disaster Field Office (DFO):

1. The FCO will establish a Disaster Field Office (DFO) to coordinate the disaster relief and recovery effort. The DFO will be staffed with representatives from Federal agencies having emergency responsibilities, and is usually co-located with the office of the State Coordinating Officer. DFO site selection will be made jointly by the FCO and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency with assistance as necessary from officials.
2. Prior to staffing the DFO, FEMA will schedule training for personnel, both state and Federal, who will work in the DFO and in the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). The training provided would cover the process of applying for assistance and specific information on each of the programs, which will be offered to disaster victims.
3. Staffing of the DFO will consist of:
 - a. FCO – Coordinate the Federal disaster recovery effort to ensure that appropriate assistance is provided.
 - b. SCO – Coordinate the activities of state agencies involved in the recovery process.
 - c. Public Assistance Officers (Federal and State) – Coordinates the administration of the public assistance program.
 - d. Individual Assistance Officers (Federal) – Coordinates the administration of the individual assistance program.
 - e. Mitigation Officers (Federal and State) – Coordinates the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
 - f. Public Information Officers (Federal and State) – Coordinates the release of information to the media and public.
 - g. Congressional Liaison – Federal and state personnel responsible for keeping appropriate Congressional members informed of recovery activities.
 - h. Outreach Staff – In coordination with local emergency management coordinators, Federal and state personnel responsible for identifying isolated populations of disaster victims and advising them of the availability of disaster assistance services.
 - i. Other support staff as needed.

VII. RE-ENTRY INTO DISASTER AREA(S)

- A. Decision makers in the state and county EOCs will review information on the disaster area. Re-entry decisions will be made based on analysis of that information and coordinated through county emergency management offices.
- B. Priorities will be established by county, state, and Federal officials. Priority of issues with immediate concern may include, but will not be limited to:
 - 1. Securing the disaster area, protecting public safety, and establishing effective communications.
 - 2. Assessing the immediate unmet emergency needs of those impacted by the disaster (food, water, clothing, medical supplies, etc.) and taking the appropriate steps to meet those needs; e.g., clearing of roadways for emergency vehicles;
 - 3. Identifying and eliminating hazards to public health; and
 - 4. Assessing damage to essential public facilities and services (electricity, telecommunications, transportation systems, etc.) and taking the appropriate steps to restore essential facilities and services.

IX. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS;

A. Coordination of County, State and Federal Resources:

- 1. Coordination of county, state and Federal resources will be maximized if decision makers and their support staff can be co-located in or near the DFO. Every effort will be made to procure sufficient space to allow for the relocation of recovery elements at the State EOC to the disaster area.
- 2. If determined necessary and available, space will be provided at the DFO for appropriate local liaisons.
- 3. A recovery task force will be established. The task force will consist of appropriate county, state and Federal officials (decision makers and those with authority to commit resources) who will meet on a regular basis to coordinate recovery efforts, and identify and resolve problems areas.

B. Coordination of Volunteer Organizations:

In addition to those individuals volunteering their time and services, there is an extensive network of volunteer agencies and organizations that provide humanitarian relief services to disaster victims. This network, the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), is an affiliation of organizations

involved in providing resources and services to disaster victims and communities affected by disasters. The American Red Cross (ARC) has national agreements with most VOAD organizations.

X. RESTORATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

A. Debris removal:

1. ESF #3 (Public Works) will be responsible for the overall coordination of debris removal efforts. It is anticipated that a significant number of personnel with engineering and construction skills, along with construction equipment and materials, will be required from sources outside the disaster area. The acquisition and deployment of these additional resources will be coordinated by the ESF #3 Coordinator.
2. Debris removal efforts will focus on clearing major transportation routes to allow for the movement of emergency vehicles, traffic, and emergency resources and supplies. After major transportation routes have been cleared, debris will then be removed from secondary roadways, residential streets and public parks.
3. To minimize the impact on remaining landfill capacity, alternative means of disposal will be used whenever possible. Vegetative debris will either be burned or chipped. Burning provides the most expeditious means of disposal; however, the public health hazards resulting from large-scale burning of debris may require chipping either in addition to or in lieu of burning. Burn sites will be identified (preferably in rural areas away from population concentrations) by state and local officials.
4. Construction debris should be separated and disposed of accordingly. Appliances, for example, should be stockpiled (rather than taken to a landfill) until necessary arrangements can be made for disposal. Wood and other combustible materials should be burned or chipped along with vegetative debris.
5. ESF #3 will be responsible for coordinating with local and state officials to secure necessary emergency environmental permits and legal clearances for debris removal and disposal.

B. Transportation Systems:

1. Damages to transportation systems will influence the accessibility of disaster relief services and supplies. Restoration of transportation systems is designed to make sure that those systems have the capacity (service, equipment, facilities, etc.) to facilitate the movement of emergency personnel, vehicles, equipment and supplies.

2. ESF #1 (Transportation) will be responsible for coordination of transportation assistance to state and local governments and volunteer organizations requiring transportation resources to move relief supplies and personnel effectively. The Transportation ESF will work with local officials to:
 - a. Establish an inventory of available state and local transportation services and resources;
 - b. Prioritize and allocate transportation resources and services to support disaster assistance missions; and
 - c. Restore traffic signals and street signs.

C. Electricity

1. Restoration of electrical service will begin as soon as major transportation routes are cleared of debris to allow emergency vehicles and crews to enter the area(s). Immediately after disaster conditions subside, ESF #3 will assess damage to electric power and fuel systems; assess energy supply and demand; and identify resource requirements to repair damaged systems.
2. ESF #3 will work closely with local government and utility officials to establish priorities for the repair of damaged energy systems and the provision of emergency sources of fuel and power.

D. Telecommunications:

1. Immediately after emergency conditions subside, ESF #2 (Communications) will deploy an assessment team to determine the extent of damage to existing telecommunications systems and to identify communications priorities and needs. The Communications ESF will then review inventories of communications equipment and resources available to support recovery efforts and make necessary arrangements to deploy this equipment and resources to the disaster area(s). Requests for telecommunications equipment and resources will be processed through this ESF.
2. Until normal telecommunications can be restored, ESF #2 will implement a temporary emergency telecommunications system for use by emergency personnel and the general public.

E. Water and Waste Water Systems:

1. ESF #8 (Health and Medical Services) will assist local officials in determining the suitability of potable water and identifying potential hazards to drinking water supplies. If potable water systems are found to be contaminated, the ESF will determine the appropriate protective action i.e., advising the public to drink bottled water, to boil water before drinking, etc.

2. Public works and engineering support necessary to repair or restore damaged water and wastewater systems will be coordinated by ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering). Additional equipment (such as generators, pumps, etc.) may be necessary for wells supplying water, operating lift stations, and repairing broken water mains.

F. Medical Systems:

1. ESF #8 will be responsible for coordinating the overall restoration of medical services and will coordinate the mobilization and deployment of assessment teams to assist in determining specific health and medical needs and priorities within the disaster area(s).
2. Epidemiologists will be deployed to conduct field studies and investigations, monitor injury and disease patterns, and provide technical assistance on disease and injury control.
3. In a catastrophic disaster the Health and Medical Services ESF will coordinate the alerting and deployment of additional medical support personnel from outside the disaster area(s). Since patient care to disaster victims will most likely be under difficult field conditions, the ESF can anticipate the need for Federal disaster medical assistance teams (DMATs), and supporting military medical units to assist state and local authorities with triage, surgical stabilization, and continued patient monitoring and care.
4. The Health and Medical ESF will coordinate the acquisition of additional medical equipment and supplies necessary to replace those damaged or destroyed.
5. Working closely with ESF#1 (Transportation), the Health and Medical Services will coordinate transportation support for incoming medical personnel, supplies and equipment, and for the movement of patients and casualties both within and from the disaster area(s).
6. The Health and Medical ESF will coordinate the assessment of health and medical effects of exposure to radiological, chemical and biological hazards by emergency workers and the public. Mental health and crisis counseling services will be made available to emergency workers and the public.
7. The ESFS will also assist in assessing the threat of vector-borne diseases and in assessing potable water and waste water/solid waste disposal issues. Victim identification and mortuary services, including temporary morgue facilities will be coordinated by ESF #8.

XI. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

A. State Individual Assistance Officer (IAO)

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the State of Nebraska has chosen the option of having the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administer the program.

B. Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs):

1. In the aftermath of a disaster, disruptions to the transportation system may make it difficult for many disaster victims to get to locations and sites where assistance information is available. To make it easier for individuals, the Federal IAO will coordinate through the state with the county emergency management director to establish one or more DRCs in the disaster area.
2. The DRC is the Federal government's primary mechanism for delivering disaster assistance information to disaster victims.
3. Once DRC locations have been confirmed, local State and Federal Public Information Officers (PIOs) will prepare a coordinated news release to advise disaster victims of the DRC locations, assistance programs available and any documentation and other materials necessary to support applications for disaster assistance.
4. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) Management and Operations:
 - a. The State will appoint a State Liaison for each DRC. The Liaison will work closely with FEMA DRC manager in the establishment and daily operations of the DRC to ensure proper staffing.
 - b. DRC hours of operation will be determined jointly by the State and Federal Coordinating Officers.
6. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) staffing:
 - a. DRCs may be staffed with representatives from appropriate Federal, state and local agencies, private relief organizations, and other organizations capable of providing disaster-related assistance to individuals. DRC staffing may include representatives from the following:
 - 1) Nebraska Department of Labor – Provides assistance and information to disaster victims relative to unemployment compensation and disaster unemployment assistance (DUA).
 - 2) Rural Housing and Community Development (formerly FmHA) and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture – Provides loans to cover disaster related agricultural losses;

- 3) Small Business Administration (SBA) – Provides loans to homeowners and business owners to cover disaster related losses;
- 4) American Red Cross – Provides assistance for the immediate needs of disaster victims and information about services available;
- 5) Nebraska Department of Insurance – Provides assistance and information about resolving insurance claims and problems;
- 6) National Flood Insurance Program – FEMA provides assistance in determining whether damaged properties are located within designated floodplains;
- 7) Temporary Housing Program – FEMA staff provide information and assistance to disaster victims on housing assistance available;
- 8) Internal Revenue Service and the Nebraska Department of Revenue – Provides assistance and information about how the disaster will affect income tax.

b. Additional agencies and staff may be located at the DRCs as needed.

D. Teleregistration for Disaster Assistance:

1. The National Teleregistration Center (NTC) is a national telephone bank service provided by FEMA. Upon activation following a Presidential Disaster Declaration, disaster victims will register for individual disaster assistance by calling the “800” telephone number to the NTC.
2. The Federal IAO will work closely with the Public Information Officers to prepare coordinated news releases advising the public of the National Teleregistration Center and the toll-free telephone number for the general public of the National Teleregistration Center and the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired.

E. Community Outreach:

1. Although applications for individual assistance programs will be made directly to the National Teleregistration Center “800” telephone number, the disruption in normal communications systems will expectedly result in isolated pockets of disaster victims who are unaware of the availability of disaster assistance programs.
2. FEMA, state and local officials will conduct outreach activities in an effort to inform all individuals affected by the disaster concerning what programs are available, where the DRCs will be located and hours of operation. This

outreach will be accomplished by utilizing media resources and by assembling and deploying outreach teams to remote areas to inform residents of assistance efforts. The Federal IAO may coordinate through the State with ESF #1 (Transportation) to transport the outreach teams into the disaster areas(s).

3. Prior to closing DRCs, outreach efforts will verify that all affected residents are informed.

F. Closing Disaster Recovery Centers:

As the number of disaster victims applying of assistance declines, the Governor's Authorized Representative and Federal Coordinating Officer, acting upon recommendations from the State Coordinating Officer and the Federal Individual Assistance Officers will decide whether to close a DRC. The Federal IAO will work with the Public Information Officers to prepare a press release advising the public that a DRC site will close. The effective date of the DRC closing, as well as a listing of open DRC sites, will be included in the release.

XII. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

A. Public Assistance Officer:

1. The Governor or Governor's Authorized Representative will appoint a State Public Assistance Officer (PAO), who will be responsible for working closely with the Federal Public Assistance Officer to coordinate all activities related to Federal reimbursement of state and local governments, and eligible private non-profit organizations, for costs incurred as a result of the disaster.
2. The State PAO will be responsible for establishing and staffing a Public Assistance Office at the Disaster Field Office.

B. Public Assistance Office:

1. The State Public Assistance Officer will establish the State Public Assistance Office at the Disaster Field office (DFO). The State PAO will work closely with the Federal counterpart to locate and secure adequate space within the Disaster Field Office.
2. The organization of the Public Assistance Office will be flexible and capable of expanding as needed. The typical staffing of the Public Assistance Office is as follows:
 - a. Public Assistance Officer Responsible for the overall management of the Public Assistance Office and coordination of all activities related to Federal reimbursement of eligible applicants.

- b. Assistant Public Assistance Office – Assist the Public Assistance Officer in the management of the office and coordinating Federal reimbursement to eligible applicants.
 - c. Public Assistance Inspectors – Review public damage as part of state damage survey inspection team and provide technical assistance to eligible applicants in the preparation and review of Disaster Survey Reports.
 - d. Administrative and Support Staff – Process payments to eligible applicants, manage sub grants with eligible applicants, and maintain accurate accounting of all financial transactions.
3. In the event of a catastrophic emergency, the existing staff of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will be insufficient to staff the Public Assistance Office. In anticipation of this, the State PAO should immediately contact the following sources for additional temporary staff:
 - a. Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, Division of State Personnel, Specialized Office Services – for temporary public assistance inspectors (planners, engineers, architects, etc.), administrative and support staff,
 - b. Nebraska Job Service – For temporary public assistance inspectors (planners, engineers, architects, etc.) administrative staff, and support staff,
 - c. Professional Engineering Associations – For temporary public assistance inspectors;
 - d. State Agencies – For temporary public assistance inspectors, administrative staff, and support staff.

XIV. HAZARD MITIGATION

A. State Hazard Mitigation Officer:

1. The Governor will appoint a State Hazard Mitigation Officer (S/HMO), who will be responsible for coordinating, updating and implementing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (pursuant to Section 409 of the Stafford Act) and implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (pursuant to Section 404 of the Stafford Act).
2. The S/HMO will provide leadership for the involvement of state and local agencies in monitoring, and updating the existing plan. The S/HMO is responsible for making sure that appropriate state and local agencies have the opportunity to participate in the development of hazard mitigation plans,

and that the hazard mitigation planning process is coordinated with all other state and local hazard mitigation programs.

B. Federal Hazard Mitigation Officer:

The Federal Coordinating Officer will appoint a Federal Hazard Mitigation Officer (F/HMO), who will be responsible for managing Federal hazard mitigation programs and activities. The F/HMO serves as the Federal counterpart of the S/HMO.

C. Interagency hazard Mitigation Team:

An Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (I-Team) will be activated by the F/HMO and the S/HMO. The S/HMO will be responsible for identifying appropriate state representatives on the I-Team and for encouraging local governments to participate if applicable and if personnel are available.

XV. LONG-TERM RECOVERY

A. Focus:

Long-term recovery efforts focus on community redevelopment and restoring the economic viability of the disaster area(s). This phase requires a substantial commitment of time and resources by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

- a. Restoring public infrastructure and social services damaged by the emergency;
- b. Re-establishing an adequate supply of housing;
- c. Restoring lost jobs; and
- d. Restoring the economic base of the disaster area(s).

B. State Recovery Coordinating Office:

Due to disaster conditions, which are expected to exist for some time, the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) may establish a state Recovery Office within the disaster area(s). This office, which may be established at the Disaster Field Office or another suitable location, may serve the following agencies and organizations:

1. Federal agencies (FEMA, Housing & Urban Development, Health & Human Services, Economic Development Administration, and Small Business Administration);

2. State agencies (Governor's Office, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Department of Roads, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Social Services, and others);
3. Local governments;
4. Private nonprofit organizations and community development corporations.

C. State Recovery Coordinating Office management and Staffing:

1. The State Coordinating Officer (SCO) will be responsible for the overall management and administration of the State Recovery Office. The SCO may delegate authority for the daily operations of the Office to a Deputy SCO.
2. The staff of the State Recovery Office will consist of full-time state positions and temporary personnel who have the technical knowledge of and access to resources available to aid in the recovery effort.

D. Coordination of Long-Term Recovery

1. The State Recovery Office will coordinate the handling of Federal, state and private funding programs for reconstruction and redevelopment within the disaster area(s). Recovery Office staff will provide technical assistance to local governments and private nonprofit organizations to gain access to state and Federal funding programs. Recovery Office staff will also act as a catalyst for public/private community partnerships to promote redevelopment.
2. Staff will establish and maintain contact with state and local officials, community and business leaders, and Federal officials to ensure effective communications and problem solving.

E. Close Out:

1. When recovery efforts have progressed to the point where public infrastructure and social services damaged by the emergency have been restored, adequate supplies of housing are available to disaster victims, jobs lost as a result of the emergency have been restored, and the economic base of the disaster area(s) has been restored, the State Coordinating Officer will recommend to the Governor or his authorized representative that the State Recovery Office be closed.
2. Upon concurrence by the Governor, the office will be closed. Permanent state positions assigned to the office will be relocated back to the State Office and the temporary positions will be discontinued. All records will be transferred to the appropriate offices.

F. Training and Exercises

1. Training

Specialized training requirements are defined in the functional Annexes. Each agency with responsibilities under this Plan is also responsible for ensuring that its personnel are adequately trained and capable of carrying out their required tasks. Each agency will assess training needs and ensure that formal emergency management training programs are made available to personnel.

2. Exercises

The conduct of exercises of elements of this Plan on an ongoing basis are essential to the maintenance of an emergency response capability and for ensuring the adequacy of this Plan. Each agency will be responsible for training an exercise design team which will coordinate the overall exercise program. An exercise of the direction and control aspects of this Plan should be conducted on an annual basis. All exercises and drills will be critiqued and any follow-up activities conducted on a timely basis.